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GRAVES OF UNKNOWN BRIGHT WITH HOLLY

'New York Herald of Paris' Pays Christmas Tribute to A. E. F. Dead.

PLACES 1,747 WREATHS

Special Services Are Held by French and Americans in Cemeteries.

CHILDREN BEAR BLOOMS

Resting Place of Little Group in Belgium Also Gets Its Share of Greens.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1922, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Paris, Dec. 25.

To-night 1,747 simple white crosses with the significant lettering, "Unknown American Soldier" on graves in cemeteries from the Channel to the Mediterranean, wear their Christmas wreaths of remembrance. Early this morning representatives of *The New York Herald of Paris*, with the co-operation of the Graves Registration Service and French civilian and religious authorities, visited the A. E. F. graveyards to pay tribute to hundreds of unidentified Americans whose mothers, sisters, brothers and children across the Atlantic to-day mourned an empty chair in many an American home. It was an act of love in which the French joined gladly, as another occasion to prove their appreciation of America's sacrifices during the war.

Children Decorate Graves.

Long before Paris was awake the American Cemetery at Surmesnes received tender and affectionate attention. Only two unknown soldiers lie buried there, but even before *The New York Herald's* wreaths arrived Surmesnes school children had scattered flowers over the American graves. At the foot of two glistening crosses Major R. P. Harbold, head of the American graves service, who is also commander of Benjamin Franklin Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, accompanied by R. H. Rosenthal, placed a holly emblem of the nation's remembrance. Then, as a tribute to those who may have fallen but whose graves are not yet marked, another wreath was placed at the base of the impressive monument, "The American Doughboy," created by the Amer-

ican sculptor, Jo Davidson, and considered one of the finest memorials of the war.

In spite of inclement weather this Christmas tribune attracted much attention in the towns near concentrations of the American dead. At Romagne, where 483 unidentified lie in a special section of America's largest cemetery in France, Capt. George P. Spann directed the placing of the wreaths. Only a few miles away, at Thiaucourt, which is also under Capt. Spann's direction, school children, under the guidance of the captain, Thiaucourt's Mayor and the local cure solemnly placed a Christmas emblem upon the mounds, while brief prayers and an impressive sermon showed French recognition of American valor. It was in the Thiaucourt sector during the St. Mihiel drive that the Americans proved themselves masters of the situation, and to-day's tribute to those who fell, honored but unknown, found a ready response in the hearts of the country folk, who spared two hours to commemorate America's dead.

In Belgium, where twenty-nine unidentified Americans lie buried; at Bouvy, where 154, chiefly from New York, rest beneath unnamed crosses, and just outside the tiny village of Serignes-et-Nezles the graves registration authorities, as *The New York Herald* in its tribute to the American dead.

But, as last year, it was in Belleau Wood, in the sacred sector of Chateau-Thierry, where the valor is inscribed forever on the pages of history, that the Christmas tribute found its fullest expression. Here Adolph Kaess, caretaker of Belleau cemetery, surrounded by Boy Scouts, Abbe Coombes, the cure of Belleau, and Dr. Julian Wadsworth, director of the Methodist Memorial in Chateau-Thierry, laid *The New York Herald's* wreaths upon 224 grassy mounds. Washington was represented in this ceremony by Mrs. Edward Clifford, wife of Col. Clifford, second assistant to Secretary of the Treasury Mellon.

Woman Voices Tribute.

America's voice also was expressed at Belleau Wood to-day by Mrs. Edward C. Lambert of the Women's College of Illinois, who, trembling with emotion, said: "I come to assure you, on behalf of American womanhood, that we mothers think always of the boys who are buried in this dear land of France. I want to assure you this Christmas Day that hearts are aching for those who did not come home, and especially for those who, as the unnamed, lie beneath these white crosses." Following a prayer and a brief sermon, in which Abbe Coombes pledged the care of the graves as long as life was accorded him, Dr. Wadsworth closed the ceremony with an address touching referring to the Americans' sacrifice, and especially to the grief of American mothers, whose hearts to-day were sorrowing for the sons who have not returned, and whose last resting places are unknown.

No more fitting conclusion could be possible to the recital of this annual tribute to American heroes than the closing phrases of Dr. Wadsworth's address, which, inspired by personal admiration of America's part in the great war, seemed to lift the cloud of loneliness surrounding the long lines of unmarked graves, as he declared:

"We may not know their names, but we are assured that their noble sacrifice is not unknown by the angels who guard well their memory and fame, although unwritten on the simple crosses before which we stand. We would, in the midst of our Christmas festivities, assure these American lads they are not forgotten, and that a grateful nation cherishes their memory. This place must stand for a greater fraternity of nations, even a brotherhood of mankind. It is our duty to pledge ourselves upon this day, which marks the birth of the Prince of Peace, to the high ideal of peace for which they gave their lives."

REMEMBER UNKNOWN DEAD IN ENGLAND

'Herald' Wreaths on Graves of Torpedoed A. E. F. Men.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1922, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, London, Dec. 25.

A little group of British and American children temporarily put aside the joy Santa Claus had brought to-day to help pay Christmas homage to some 500 American soldiers buried in Brookwood Cemetery, in the Surrey hills. In behalf of *The New York Herald of Paris* they placed wreaths on the graves of sixty-seven unknown members of the A. E. F. A driving rain could not dampen the spirit of reverence in which, each child taking his turn, the wreaths were placed one by one. Then, headed by Capt. Donald Smith of the American Legion post here, and Miss Widdicombe, representing the American Women's Club, the children laid a great wreath at the base of the flagpole in the center of the American section of the burial ground. Among the children were Arthur S. Draper, Jr., Dorothy Draper, John McHugh Stuart, Jr., Americans, and Thomas, Sidney and Reginald Champion, English.

Capt. Smith said that the unknown soldiers all had been washed ashore on various parts of the coast during the war, having lost their lives aboard torpedoed ships. He emphasized the sacrifice the men had made for their coun-

try and how necessary was this spirit to service for the liberty their land loved. He told how the Graves Registration Commission was keeping up that section of the cemetery as a hallowed spot. Visitors to Brookwood were deeply touched by the children's devotion and watched the simple ceremony that had been arranged by *The New York Herald of Paris*.

GERMAN EFFICIENCY AND OUTPUT ARE LOW

American Steel Man Urges Return to Ten Hour Day.

PRAGUE, Dec. 25.—"What Germany needs most is efficiency and production," said John B. Smiley of New York, president of the Poldi Steel Corporation of Titusville, Pa., when he arrived here. "The former Chancellor declared that bread is first and then reparations in the German program. But the program should place above all a return to efficiency. For example, workmen in German steel mills are not showing the efficiency they formerly had. There has been an actual decrease of 40 per cent in the output because of decreased efficiency. European factory men never did produce in the old ten-hour day as much as an American factory man in eight hours. Therefore, if they return to the ten hour day they would be doing much toward restoring the internal conditions of the country, a thing far more important than securing foreign loans."

PARIS 'TEMPS' ATTACKS REAL ESTATE BILL

Says It Injures Foreign Investments in France.

PARIS, Dec. 25.—The bill recently passed by the Chamber of Deputies, whereby foreigners cannot hold real estate in France without special permit from the Government, is attacked by the *Temps*, which declares "It is impossible that the Senate will adopt a bill so opposed to the real interests of France." The bill as first introduced contained no reference to exchange, but aimed only to insure the security of France and its clauses affected only the frontier departments. When it reached the Chamber's committee its scope was enlarged to cover the whole of France.

The *Temps* objects to the retroactivity of the bill and points out that the price of real estate has followed closely the fall in the value of the franc, while the purchase of real estate by foreigners brought to France and kept there large sums of money.

SPAIN SEEKS NEW TOKIO PACT.

TOKIO, Dec. 26. (Associated Press).—The Spanish-Japanese treaty of commerce and navigation will expire on October 30 next year and will be abolished in accordance with a notice recently given this Government. Pending the conclusion of a new pact, a protocol probably will be concluded to meet the immediate needs of the two powers.



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